

EditorialPowerheads for Killing SharksA Warning and an Appeal!!!!!!!!!!!!

For some time passed, powerheads have been legal in N.S.W and have been used extensively in killing sharks.

In Victoria late in 1965, a newspaper article stated that it was expected that powerheads would be legalized for summer 1965/66. Keen to have a certain protection against sharks many divers and spearfishermen in Victoria acquired or imported from N.S.W. this weapon. At least one dealer in diving equipment in Melbourne went so far as to have them openly displayed for sale, no doubt on the basis of this newspaper article, which it must be pointed out, in no way indicated that they were yet legal.

NOW THE WARNING!!! Your editors contacted the Firearms section of the Police Department and were advised that as yet Powerheads were not legal in this state and in fact a person possessing one runs the risk of being charged for being in possession of an unregistered pistol. From the Chief Secretary Department, it was learned that the matter was currently under consideration and something should be known in about a month, so if you are contemplating the purchase of a powerhead hold off until they are legal.

Continuing on powerheads, your editors have been disappointed to have personally observed these powerheads having been used indiscriminately in N.S.W. and elsewhere in the destruction of inoffensive marine creatures such as rays, wobblygong, port jackson, and carpet sharks, etc as well as against the dangerous species of sharks. Agreed, there appears grounds for the argument that it is better to kill a predatory type of shark before it attacks a human being, but, it is a disgraceful wanton act to expend the use of this weapon to the many other large inoffensive marine creatures, whose only crime is that they are large enough to test out the destructive

power of such apparatus, for the greater bulk of these fish are unsuitable for eating.

Now the appeal: - If and when powerheads are legalised in Victoria, use them sparingly and solely for the purpose for which they are intended; protection of divers and spearfishermen from predatory marine creatures. Conservation and not destruction of marine life should be the aim of all these privileged to slip below the waves and to observe and move among nature's aquatic wonders.

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W A N T E D                      Social Secretary

Owing to pressure of school work, the Social Secretary is unable to perform his duties. Therefore, a volunteer is requested. There is not much work to do and the Secretary, Brian Heather, who is the other member of the Social Committee is willing to help in any way.

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C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

To Pat and Annette Reynolds on the birth of their son Scott Wesley Reynolds, on 22nd March; another diver for the club?

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WORKING BEE

A working been was held at the home of Dot Drury, 161 Beach Street, Frankston on April 2nd and 3rd to paint the inside and outside of the house. Owing to such a good turnout, quite a lot of work was done, but there

is still more to be done and a tentative date of April 16th and 17th has been set. So if you can come, please contact

Frank Coustley on 28.3910 and volunteer.

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Meetings::: At the last members meeting, Ted McLean showed some very interesting colour film of life and work aboard the Glomar lll, to about 20 members, who braved the tropical downpour to attend the meeting.

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Next Meeting::: Will be held at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, on the third Friday of the month, April 15th. This will be just after the Easter trip, so we expect a good rollup of tired members.

Supper volunteers: (although they don't know it until they head this!) are - P. Matthews, L. Addison, P. Robertson, J. Watson.

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT: Main points considered by the committee at the last meeting were as follows:-

1. Handbook - there have been a number of frustrating but unavoidable delays in assembling the material and setting up for printing, but it is hoped these are behind us and the new pages will be available soon.

2. Leases of Land: (a) F. Coustley reported that with the presentation of a list of club members, and a provisional design for a ski lodge, the name of the club will be placed on the waiting list for a land lease at Mt. Buller.

(b) J. Watson tabled information that 24 half acre blocks for the erection of holiday residences will shortly be opened up for lease by the Inlay Shire Council at Bittangabee, on Green Cape. The Secretary was instructed to write to enquire into conditions, and cost of such a lease.

3. Working Bee: A working been 2nd and 3rd April has been organised at Mrs. Dot Drury's, to paint out the house. All club members have been earnestly requested to attend. Paint supplied by the club.

OUTINGS

Past:::Peterborough, Bay of Islands, 12th - 14th March. Seven divers, assorted wives and girlfriends, and ten children attended this outing. For this part of the coast the weather was kind for divers, with strong northerlies to flatten out the swell, followed by calmer weather from the south. Dives were made at the Bay of Islands around the rock stacks, where no more than 20 feet of water was found. Other dives were made at Port Campbell, both under the jetty, and along the western cliff face. Water here was relatively clear, with a sharp drop to a sandy bottom. The undercut rock provides a good home for crays, if you can find any left that are up to size, especially when one "lungless" diver we know gets in there! Also, several who hired caravans, shacks, and camping space at the local park, discovered the voracity of the local sharks, (marine) is nothing to be compared with the financial predations of the sharks (land based) who own the park!

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Boat Trip: San Remo, 27th March, 1966.

On a calm sunny day, 5 members of the Group joined members of the Aqualung Club of Victoria aboard Ray Harrison's boat and at 10.40 a.m. headed for the "Pinnacles" off Cape Woolami. Arrived at the spot all divers in pairs or fours launched themselves into the deep blue. For the Sub-Aqua boys it was their first time on the pinnacles and they lived up to the glowing descriptions given of them. They are a divers delight. In 140 feet of water they rise to within 30 feet of the surface. A number of shallow caves are present in the steeply sloping sides of these granite outcrops which are covered with multi-coloured sponges of all shapes and sizes, sea anemone, sea whips 3 and 4 feet long and fish of all colours shapes and sizes. These fish are unconcerned at the presence of divers as they have not been shot at in this locality as guns are "out". It is hoped that all divers visiting this particular spot share the view of the discoverers, the Aqualung Club of Victoria, that the area remain a reserve for conservation of the marine flora

and fauna which abound there. After 20 minutes each in the area we returned to the boat for lunch and inshore spear fishing, which for the A.C. of Vic was most successful. For the V.S.A.G. divers, the highlight of a wonderful day was their encounter, whilst snorkelling, with a 10 foot shark, believed to have been a Thresher, which gave them a careful and very close scrutiny. However, when Rob Bricker showed an equal curiosity in the shark and dived down for a closer view, he (the shark) mosied off.

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Future Outings. Easter 8th - 12th April. There will be several venues to cater for all tastes in diving this Easter.

1. For those who don't mind a long trip - Port McDonnell. Fresh water diving in the Mt. Gambier lakes and sinkholes, and the possibility of a few crays in the ocean. Campers meet at the caravan park on the foreshore at Port McDonnell, Dive Captain R. Addison. 939068.
2. Another trip for the ocean minded - Cape Everard. Almost untouched diving territory, plenty of fish and crays. A little chancy on the weather. Intending participants contact Rob Bricker. 279068.
3. Private outing, not too far away. Small boat will be available for a few divers, based at San Remo. If the weather permits, diving around Cape Woolami. Contact J. Watson 337.9263.

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Diving Grades Examination: On Saturday, 19th March, the Diving Committee held examinations for B and C Grades at Mornington, off the Pier. Only one diver presented for C grade, which was rather disappointing. Three divers completed B Grade. Those passed were.

B Grade R. Bricker. J. Watson, B. Gray.

C Grade B. Gray.

(A note of warning from a still exhausted Editor - don't ask a certain leader of the diving committee to examine you, he is

hopelessly unable to estimate distances!)  
Anyone still interested in doing these exams should  
contact Pat Reynolds.

For the benefit of anyone interested in the B Grade  
requirements they are set out below.

1. Log twenty hours, at least 10 of these to be on  
official group outings if no log book has been kept,  
the committee shall determine whether the candidate  
is eligible to make the practical tests.
2. Dive to a depth of 25 feet, using basic equip-  
ment only - this consists of mask, snorkel, flippers.
3. Swim 200 yards, no diving equipment of any sort  
to be used. Any swimming style may be used, but the  
swim must be completed without a break.
4. Dive to 40 feet using full equipment, return to  
surface in free ascent, without using unit; care to  
correct method of exhaling must be demonstrated.
5. Remove mast and clear at 40 feet.
6. Recover body from a depth of 20 feet, bring to  
surface, then tow the body a distance of 50 yards.  
Body's head must be kept out of water, mouthpiece  
removed.
7. Compass swim. Minimum distance 100 yards.  
Bearing on destination to be taken on surface with wrist  
compass, with arm held in position to be maintained  
in swimming. Submerge, maintaining this bearing, making  
due allowance for drift. At destination, make a back  
bearing without surfacing, and return to point of  
departure.
8. Swim 100 feet at thirty feet depth sharing mouth-  
piece with partner.
9. Swim 50 yards at depth of thirty feet with mask  
blacked out, following a rope laid loosely on the  
bottom.

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Results of Raffle: Unfortunately, non of our members  
won anything but the club did benefit from the sale of  
tickets to the sum of \$36.00.

Winners were:- A. Williams, 3 Warren Court East Geelong  
M. McLaren, Graham Street, Wonthaggi  
R. Haitonfells, H.M.A.S. Parramatta.

Flinders Island Trip.

As notice of this trip was so short, none of our Club members attended. We hear, however, that it was a great success from the diving point of view, both in wreck hunting, cray fishing, and general organisation. There will be more in the future, which we hope, will be advertised somewhat earlier, so that members can arrange to save the necessary finance.

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Sea Science Section

We will give this section over this month to a report on the new research and study group recently set up.

As most of you know, the V.S.A.G. has had, for several years, a Research Division which has struggled mightily to get a few things done. However, it was found that we lacked the numbers to carry any project through successfully. After discussion, we made the suggestion to the S.D.F. that perhaps such a group on the wider scale would be a further step forward in the diving activities in this state. The S.D.F. took the idea up, and circulated the member clubs for opinions. The concept was very enthusiastically received, and, in a further step, the S.D.F. held a special meeting early in March to discuss the formation of the new division.

Following is a resume of the decisions arrived at in this meeting.

1. The new group be known as the Underwater Research Group, and will be under the auspices of the S.D.F. of Victoria. The new group will be designated U.R.G., and will be open to any diver in this State, whether or not he/she is a member of any club, and whether or not the club is a member club of the S.D.F.

The only requirement is an interest in marine and/or fresh-water life, or associated sciences such as geology, ecology, or photography, etc.

2. It is not intended to set up a new club in opposition to existing clubs, so detracting from their membership - it is to be regarded as a complementary activity to satisfy the diver who wants to know a little more about the things he sees underwater. Membership of an S.D.F. club such as ours, automatically ensures membership of the U.R.G.

3. A minimum of four quarterly meetings will be held per year at which members may display, and discuss projects and



specimens. A speaker will also be invited to lecture on a subject of general interest to the members, at a relatively technical level. It is hoped that from those contacts, members may be encouraged to take up small personal research projects and collections, being able to gain help and advice from those experts available in the marine sciences.

4. It is hoped that 'excursion dives' will be held several times yearly, with all clubs participating, and again the presence of the expert biologist, and geologists, etc, will be sought, so that any specimens of interest brought up can be explained and discussed on the spot.

5. A major project will be devised for the participation of those most deeply interested in the marine sciences. This will have to be discussed with the Museum, Fisheries, etc, before final decision is made.

6. A Chairman, and a Secretary were appointed, being Rob Bricker, and Jan Watson, respectively. This means that our club will be the leaders for the time being at least, in the organisation of the U.R.G. This is perhaps fitting, as our club has had the most experience in this type of activity.

An inaugural meeting will be held at 74 Nimmo Street, Essendon on Thursday May 5th, 1966 to launch this new group. Interested V.S.A.G. members are particularly asked to attend, for the reasons set out in 6. (above) At this meeting, the discussion will concern the aims, objects, and work of the new group and some sort of plan will be devised. A speaker will also be invited to give a lecture.

It is most important that you attend this meeting if you are interested in becoming a member of the U.R.G. Should you know of any other divers who will be interested, please contact them with this information. Also, it would be appreciated if you will let J. Watson know if you intend coming to the inaugural meeting so that we will have some idea of the numbers likely to attend.